



UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE
United States Patent and Trademark Office
Address: COMMISSIONER OF PATENTS AND TRADEMARKS
Washington, D.C. 20231
www.uspto.gov

APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
09/926,092	12/27/2001	Yasutaka Ito	213163US2PCT	3826

22850 7590 12/03/2002

OBLON SPIVAK MCCLELLAND MAIER & NEUSTADT PC
FOURTH FLOOR
1755 JEFFERSON DAVIS HIGHWAY
ARLINGTON, VA 22202

EXAMINER

PAIK, SANG YEOP

ART UNIT	PAPER NUMBER
----------	--------------

3742

DATE MAILED: 12/03/2002

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

Office Action Summary

Application No.

09/926,092

Applicant(s)

ITO ET AL.

Examiner

Sang Y Paik

Art Unit

3742

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --
Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If the period for reply specified above is less than thirty (30) days, a reply within the statutory minimum of thirty (30) days will be considered timely.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133).
- Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on 10 September 2002.
- 2a) ☒ This action is **FINAL**. 2b) ☐ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 1-5,8 and 10 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 1-5,8 and 10 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☐ The drawing(s) filed on _____ is/are: a) ☐ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.
- Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
- 11) ☐ The proposed drawing correction filed on _____ is: a) ☐ approved b) ☐ disapproved by the Examiner.
- If approved, corrected drawings are required in reply to this Office action.
- 12) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. §§ 119 and 120

- 13) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some * c) ☐ None of:
- ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
 - ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
 - ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).
- * See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.
- 14) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for domestic priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(e) (to a provisional application).
- a) ☐ The translation of the foreign language provisional application has been received.
- 15) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for domestic priority under 35 U.S.C. §§ 120 and/or 121.

Attachment(s)

- | | |
|--|---|
| 1) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of References Cited (PTO-892) | 4) <input type="checkbox"/> Interview Summary (PTO-413) Paper No(s). _____ |
| 2) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) | 5) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152) |
| 3) <input type="checkbox"/> Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449) Paper No(s) _____ | 6) <input type="checkbox"/> Other: _____ |

DETAILED ACTION

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103

1. The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

2. Claims 1-3, 8 and 10 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Ushikoshi et al (US 5,306,895) in view of Hecht et al (US 5,877,475).

Ushikoshi et al shows a ceramic heater including the structure claimed including a bottom hole, the bottom hole is formed relatively nearer to the heating surface than the heating element, a temperature sensor disposed in the bottom hole. However, Ushikoshi et al does not show the temperature sensor pressed on the bottom portion of the hole.

Hecht et al shows a temperature sensor extending until it comes into a contact with the heating surface. Hecht further shows that a temperature sensor encased in a sleeve or rod being pressed to a heat sensing surface by an elastic body such as a spring.

In view of Hecht et al, it would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art to adapt Ushikoshi et al with a temperature sensor pressed to make a contact with the heating surface to more effectively measure the heating temperature and further adapt with pressing means such as spring or any other suitable means to have the sleeve rod in which the temperature sensor is encased to make a closer contact with a heat sensing surface to further accurately make the contact with the heating surface to measure of the temperature thereof.

Art Unit: 3742

3. Claim 4 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Ushikoshi et al in view of Hecht et al as applied to claims 1-3, 8 and 10 above, and further in view of Arena et al (US 5,635,093).

Ushikoshi et al in view of Hecht et al discloses all the structure claimed except the heating element divided into at least two circuits.

Arena et al shows a heating element divided into a plurality of circuits. In view of Arena et al, it would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art to adapt Ushikoshi et al, as modified by Hecht et al, with a plurality of heating circuits to maintain a desired heating temperature across the heating surface.

4. Claim 5 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Ushikoshi et al in view of Hecht et al as applied to claims 1-3, 8 and 10 above, and further in view of Yoshida et al (US 6,080,970).

Ushikoshi et al in view of Hecht et al discloses all the structure claimed except the heating element having a flat shape.

Yoshida et al shows a heating element having a flat shape. In view of Yoshida et al, it would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art to adapt Ushikoshi et al, as modified by Hecht et al, with a heating element having a flat shape to further improve the heating distribution by the heating element.

Response to Arguments

5. Applicant's arguments filed 9/10/02 have been fully considered but they are not persuasive.

Art Unit: 3742

The applicant argues that Hecht shows an inner sleeve being pressed and not the thermocouple. The claimed invention also shows a cylinder (66) which includes a sensor being pressed by a spring means (see Figure 4). The sensor itself is not pressed but the cylinder in which the sensor is provided therein.

The sensor in Hecht is also pressed via a sleeve which has a sensor therein. The applicant's argument is not thus deemed persuasive.

6. **THIS ACTION IS MADE FINAL.** Applicant is reminded of the extension of time policy as set forth in 37 CFR 1.136(a).

A shortened statutory period for reply to this final action is set to expire **THREE MONTHS** from the mailing date of this action. In the event a first reply is filed within **TWO MONTHS** of the mailing date of this final action and the advisory action is not mailed until after the end of the **THREE-MONTH** shortened statutory period, then the shortened statutory period will expire on the date the advisory action is mailed, and any extension fee pursuant to 37 CFR 1.136(a) will be calculated from the mailing date of the advisory action. In no event, however, will the statutory period for reply expire later than **SIX MONTHS** from the mailing date of this final action.

7. Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Sang Y Paik whose telephone number is 703-308-1147. The examiner can normally be reached on M-F (8:00-5:30) First Friday Off.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Teresa Walberg can be reached on 703-308-1327. The fax phone numbers for the

Application/Control Number: 09/926,092

Page 5

Art Unit: 3742

organization where this application or proceeding is assigned are 703-872-9302 for regular communications and 703-872-9303 for After Final communications.

Any inquiry of a general nature or relating to the status of this application or proceeding should be directed to the receptionist whose telephone number is 703-308-0861.

S. P. U.

Sang Y Paik
Primary Examiner
Art Unit 3742

syp
December 1, 2002